



# United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY  
Washington, DC 20240

JUN 09 2014

Dear Tribal Leader:

The Department of the Interior, Office of Wildland Fire (OWF) is committed to regular and meaningful consultation and collaboration with tribal officials in policy decisions that have Tribal implications. For the past several months, the OWF has been reviewing the Department's wildland fire management program, including our tribal consultation and coordination.

In an effort to strengthen our commitment to a meaningful, accountable process for consultation with Indian Country, we have developed a preliminary draft OWF Policy Memorandum entitled, *Tribal Consultation and Coordination for the Department of the Interior Wildland Fire Management Program*. Today, we seek your assistance in determining how to build greater efficiency and transparency in the Wildland Fire Management (WFM) decision-making processes by asking for your thoughtful feedback on the attached drafted policy memorandum.

Our proposed policy on *Tribal Consultation and Coordination for the Department of the Interior Wildland Fire Management Program* was developed in compliance with the existing practices defined by Presidential Executive Order 13175, *Consultation and Coordination with Indian Tribal Governments*, and the *Department of the Interior Policy on Consultation with Indian Tribes*.

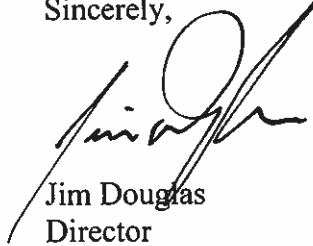
Please provide written comments no later than July 30, 2014, via mail at U.S. Department of the Interior, Attn.: Office of Wildland Fire, 1849 C Street NW, MS-2660-MIB, Washington, D.C. 20240; or via email to [paul\\_steblein@ios.doi.gov](mailto:paul_steblein@ios.doi.gov).

We will be at the upcoming Intertribal Timber Council sponsored National Indian Timber Symposium, hosted by the Coeur d'Alene Tribe in Worley, Idaho, from June 23 to 26, 2014. I will provide information on the wildland fire budget, the Cohesive Strategy and other initiatives during the Symposium. Paul Steblein, OWF Deputy Director for Policy and Budget, is the Designated Federal Official for tribal consultation in OWF. If you are interested in meeting Paul or myself in an individual meeting during that time, please contact Erin Darboven, Tribal Consultation Coordinator, at [erin\\_darboven@ios.doi.gov](mailto:erin_darboven@ios.doi.gov) or (208) 334-1566 to schedule a time at the Symposium or to make other arrangements.

Finally, I am interested in ideas that will lead to a wildland fire management program that is not only reflective of Indian values but is inclusive and transparent. In doing so, we can better identify appropriate issues and vested tribal members in the planning process, so that Federal action is achievable, comprehensive, long-lasting, and reflective of Tribal input. You are always welcome to provide input via postal mail or email at the contact information listed above.

Thank you for your partnership with the Office of Wildland Fire.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jim Douglas", written over a horizontal line.

Jim Douglas  
Director  
Office of Wildland Fire

Enclosure